

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSY-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 108

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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ABIDJAN FOR REDSO; DEPT PASS AID

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TAGS: ETEL, EAID, EINV, BTIO, CD

SUBJ: GOC DESIRE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

REF: NDJAMENA 2112

1. ON AUGUST 13, CDO MET WITH MINISTER OF POSTS/TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAHAMAT TO DISCUSS APPROACH MADE BY PRESIDENT TO CHARGE ON AUGUST 9. ACCORDING TO MAHAMAT, GOC INTEREST LIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 50 MILLION TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THROUGHOUT MUCH OF CHAD. SYSTEM WOULD INVOLVE SIX DIFFERENT NETWORKS, THREE OF WHICH ARE PRIORITY WITH FUNDING REQUIREMENT OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 30 MILLION. GOC POSITION BASED PRIMARILY ON NEARLY FOUR-YEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH GTE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS INC. AND STUDY PREPARED BY THAT ORGANIZATION FOR INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THROUGHOUT CHAD. STUDY APPARENTLY IS EXPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO INSTALL SYSTEM OF CERTAIN NATURE OVER CERTAIN TERRAIN. THERE ARE NO COST FACTORS INCLUDED. STUDY OBVIOUSLY INTENDED

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STIMULATE BUSINESS FOR ITS AUTHORS AND INDICATES WHAT OPERATIONS

WILL BE INSTALLED BY VARIOUS GTE ENTITIES, INCLUDING ITALIAN AND CANADIAN, AS WELL AS AMERICAN, SUBSIDIARIES. GOC MADE AGREEMENT WITH GTE SOME THREE YEARS AGO WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INCLUDED PROVISIONS THAT GTE WOULD UNILATERALLY SEEK FUNDING ON BEHALF OF GOC FOR INSTALLATION OF SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH GTE STUDY. ER BANK WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AS LIKELY FUNDING SOURCE.

2. ACCORDING TO MAHAMAT, MATTER HAS DRAGGED OUT FOR SOME TIME NOW WITHOUT ANY ACTION. RECENTLY GTE INTEREST HAS COME OUT OF HIBERNATION FOR UNSPECIFIED REASONS WITH THAT ORGANIZATION RECONTACTING GOC WITH INQUIRY CONCERNING GOC'S PRESENT DESIRES WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ELEMENTS OF PROJECT. (IN THIS RESPECT, MAHAMAT READ TO CDO RECENT LETTER FROM AMB ALINGUE IN WASHINGTON WHICH APPEARED TO INDICATE LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH US BUSINESS PRACTICES.)

3. MAHAMAT WENT INTO LONG PLEA (MEETING WITH CDO LASTED MORE THAN TWO HOURS) FOR USG, AND SPECIFICALLY AMEMBASSY ASSISTANCE, IN GETTING PROJECT BACK ON TRACK. DISSERTATION EMPHASIZED: ABNORMALITY OF SITUATION WHEREIN SOVEREIGN NATION SUCH AS CHAD OBLIGED TO RELY UPON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FOR ITS CONTACT WITH OUTSIDE WORLD (MAHAMAT WAS OBVIOUSLY HINTING AT GOC PIQUE CONCERNING THIS ASPECT OF DEPENDENCY UPON FRANCE); NEED FOR WIDE-RANGING TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATION OF NATION; AND IMPORTANCE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF IMPOVERISHED COUNTRY. MAHAMAT ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT IN YEARS PAST AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PLAYED VITAL ROLE IN RELATIONSHIP AND LIAISON BETWEEN GOC AND GTE, AND THAT GOC WAS LOOKING ONCE AGAIN UPON AMEMBASSY TO FACILITATE ACTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS RELATED TO THIS MATTER. HE ALSO BROUGHT OUT PURPORTED GOC RECOGNITION OF ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING HOMOGENOUS SYSTEM THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND THAT ALTHOUGH CREDITS FOR VARIOUS SECTIONS OF SYSTEM COULD PROBABLY BE OBTAINED FROM DIVERSE SOURCES, MAHAMAT, AS ENGINEER, WOULD BE CHAGRINED TO HAVE TO CONTENT WITH SYSTEM COMPRISING OF EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY RUSSIANS, CHINESE, AND JAPANESE, TO NAME A FEW, IN ADDITION TO AMERICANS.

4. AFTER FINALLY BEING ABLE TO INTERJECT DIPLOMATICALLY INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVERSATION FACT THAT, GOC ASPIRATIONS WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON CDO FELT THAT PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT DID NOT CORRESPOND TO PRIORITY SECTORS CURRENTLY ENVISIONED BY USG ECONOMIC/HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE STRATEGY FOR LOAN AND/OR GRANT FINANCING UNDER AID (RPT AID) PROGRAM TO CHAD. CDO SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR GOC TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDING SOURCES SUCH AS IBRD, AFDB, AND EXIM BANK. MAHAMAT RESPONDED THAT GOC PLANNED TO REJUVENATE MATTER

WITH GTE AND SEEK EXIM FUNDING IN COLLABORATION WITH GTE.

5. MAHAMAT WOUND UP HIS EXPOSITION BY INDICATING THAT IT WAS GOC'S HOPE THAT AMEMBASSY WOULD SUPPORT GOC THESIS THAT INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM DESIRED WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO CHAD. AND THAT BASED UPON THIS SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT, WHILE RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO ANY AND ALL EXIM BANK INQUIRIES CONCERNING CHAD AND ITS NEEDS, WOULD CHAMPION GOC CAUSE WITH EXIM BANK. FINALLY, MAHAMAT REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE INITIATIVE TO FOMENT TRIPARTITE MEETING EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR NDJAMENA AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF GOC, GTE, AND EXIM BANK WITH IDEA OF GETTING SHOW BACK ON ROAD.

6. COMMENTS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.
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